



# United States Navy **Biography**

## **Captain Steven M. James, USN** ***Director, F-35 Academic Training Center***

Captain Steven M. James is the Director of the F-35 Academic Training Center at Eglin AFB, FL. Captain James is responsible for all aspects of pilot and maintainer ground training associated with the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The ATC is a 260,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility with the capacity to train in excess of 2,100 U.S. military and international partner F-35 pilot and maintenance students annually. As a part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, the center is located within a university-style campus complete with dormitories and dining facilities.

Captain James was commissioned in 1987 from the University of Washington Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. Earning his Wings of Gold in Beeville, Texas, in 1990, he subsequently completed seven successive tours in F/A-18 squadrons. He graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School and Air Interdiction Mission Commander course, and was the Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific "Attack Aviator of the Year" for 2000. Captain James is a career naval aviator with over 3,800 hours in the F/A-18. Captain James commanded Strike Fighter Squadron 115 (VFA-115) at Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA, with a follow-on tour at the Naval War College in Newport, RI, earning a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Most recently, he completed a tour with U.S. Joint Forces Command at Fort Eustis, VA, as the Deputy Director of the Joint Deployment Training Center.

